

assent

January 27, 1957

Dear Kim:

Did you receive my dictated disk about a month ago? Should I interpret your silence as disinterest or preoccupation, or are these the same?

Anyhow, Medical Genetics is moving very rapidly to a head now—partly because I have to make a decision myself about an attractive offer elsewhere. I am still not in a position to relay any concrete offers, but if you would be interested in the setup we discussed with Dean Bowers a year and some ago, your comment on this would ~~now~~ be helpful. At that time you had promised to draw up your own commentary on what medical genetics ought to be, and how you could fit into it; if you could do that now, it would be very helpful.

Needless to see, having you at Madison, and your enthusiasm for this venture (which could be a department with ~~Richard~~ Newton Morton, you and me) would be an important factor in our own deliberations. But ~~we~~ we need some sign of that enthusiasm, hoping it exists. (Don't be afraid you'd be weakening any bargaining strength by seeming too interested; quite the contrary, in fact Dean Bowers may have had reason to conclude you were somewhat lukewarm about it.) If we can sell this principle to the medical school, and with your help there are very good prospects of it, I am sure an offer will follow that should meet your reasonable expectations, and then some.

You don't have to compose a formal document. In fact, I would suggest that you just write informally to me. But if you have some hotter irons in the fire, please let me know.

In any case, warmest regards (it's been about -10 here) and

yours,

Joshua Lederberg

Note - 1/30/57 - discussed offer from Bowers & mention of \$9000 as desirable basis of offer. Suggested getting indemnity from WAF to make for grant from Rockefeller. Can the latter may be interest in Michigan